BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 11-12 March 25th, 2011

- **BC's population reaches 4,554,085**
- **Number of British Columbians receiving EI benefits down 2.4% in January**
- **January retail sales off 0.4%**

Population

- **The population in British Columbia reached 4,554,085 as of January 1st, 2011.** In the fourth quarter of last year, population growth was at its lowest since 2006, up just 1.2% compared to the same quarter of 2009. Saskatchewan continued to lead growth (+1.5%), leaving BC in shared fifth place with Ontario and just above the average growth across Canada (+1.1%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC's population growth during the last three months of 2010 was largely the result of a natural increase (births minus deaths, +2,517).** Net migration from other provinces (+442) also contributed slightly to the province's population growth with the province gaining 11,086 migrants, but losing 10,644. There was a net inflow of migrants from every region in the country, with the exception of Nunavut, during the fourth quarter. Most in-migrants to BC came from Alberta (+4,996) and Ontario (+3,228). Alberta saw the biggest interprovincial net influx (+2,510), while Ontario lost the most (−1,811). Migration from outside of Canada has historically contributed more to BC's population than movement within Canada itself. However, the fourth quarter of 2010 broke this rule, with a net loss in international migration (−727). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) was down (-2.4% *seasonally adjusted*) to 76,140 in January, a decrease of 1,870 recipients.** Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries decreased at a slightly more moderate rate (-2.0% or -13,320 recipients) to 640,150. Total recipients climbed in parts of Atlantic Canada, but the remaining provinces saw numbers decline, most notably in Ontario (-5.5%) and Saskatchewan (-3.7%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Total retail sales in the province continued to slide in January (-0.4% *seasonally adjusted*), adding to a more substantial decline recorded at the end of 2010 (-2.3% in December).** Canadian sales edged down 0.3%, largely the result of lower sales at new car dealers. Sales were off in the four most populous provinces, offsetting gains in the rest of the country. Quebec (-1.0%) saw the most significant decline, while at the other end of the scale, Saskatchewan experienced the most notable increase (+3.0%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Heritage Institutions

- **BC's heritage institutes accounted for 13% of total Canadian revenues in 2009.** The nation's heritage institutions (excluding nature parks and archives) received over $1.2 billion in operating revenues (both earned and unearned) in 2009, up 3.1% from 2008. Non-profit institutions generated most (91%) of this total.

Canada's history and science museums, exhibition centres, planetariums and observatories accounted for a combined 50% of total operating revenue. Art museums and galleries produced a further 23% of overall revenues, followed by botanical gardens, conservatories, aquariums and zoos (21%). The remainder was generated by historic and heritage sites.

Data Source: SC, Cat. # 87-F0002-XIE

Film and Television

- **Film, television and video production in the province lost ground in 2009, as Canadian producers headquartered in BC earned sub-**

Report **Population Highlights - Fourth Quarter 2010**

Did you know...

Three-quarters (75%) of British Columbians say they try hard to conserve water at home and even more (85%) claim they attempt to save energy. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

stantially less (-40.4% to $427 million) in operating profits than in 2008 ($717 million). Operating revenues were down across the country, though to a lesser degree, with revenues in Canada falling 9.3% to $3.0 billion. The province fared better in terms of its positive profit margin (12.4%), as the nation as a whole reported a substantially lower rate in 2009 (a 2.2% margin of profit). Despite its stronghold in the film and video industry, Ontario's profit margin (1.8%) was below the national average and in Quebec, operating expenses outweighed revenues in 2009, resulting in a net loss of 2.2%.

Ontario brought in nearly half (45%, or approximately $1.4 billion) of the national revenue for this industry. BC's share of overall operating revenue (14%) was about half that of Quebec (30%) and Alberta accounted for a further five percent of the national total.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Gasoline Stations

- **In 2009, there were an estimated 12,000 retail gasoline outlets in Canada, employing over 95,000 people. The total number of gas stations has declined substantially in recent years, with an estimated 21,000 in operation two decades ago.** In 2009, approximately 39% of retail gasoline outlets identified the age of their sites as being 10 years or less. Meanwhile, half (50%) were between 11 and 30 years old and 10% were somewhat older (between 31 and 60 years). A spattering of outlets across the country reported nearly a century of service at the same location. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Climate Change

- **Between 1948 and 2009, Canada's average annual temperatures climbed by 1.4 degrees Celsius.** The Mackenzie District climatic region (encompassing most of the Northwest Territories along with small sections of the Yukon and Nunavut Territories) recorded the strongest warming trend over the six-decade period, rising a total of 2.2 degrees Celsius, while the Atlantic Canada climatic region (encompassing much of the maritime provinces) saw the smallest trend increase in mean temperature (+0.5 degrees). British Columbia is among the nation's most ecologically diverse regions and is home to at least part of five of Canada's climactic regions: South British Columbia Mountains, Pacific Coast, the Prairies, Yukon & North British Columbia Mountains and Northwestern Forest. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Water Conservation

- **Over the past few decades, Canadians have substantially improved in adopting indoor water conservation techniques.** In 2009, approximately 63% of Canadian households reported use of low-flow shower heads, more than double that recorded in 1991 (28%). Similarly, 42% of households had a low-volume toilet in 2009, compared to just nine percent in 1991. BC lags the national average in adoption of these particular water conservation methods in 2009 (60% with low-flow shower and 40% with low-volume toilet in 2009).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **The composite leading index continued its upward trend in February (+0.8%), recording its largest advance since May of 2010.** With the exception of business & personal services employment (-0.2%) all component indicators increased. Spending in the retail sector climbed as sales of furniture & appliances (+0.9%) and other durable goods (+0.6%) both posted gains. The housing index (+1.8%), a composite of housing starts and sales, was particularly strong, while financial indexes experienced increased buoyancy pressure from a strong stock market (+2.7%). Positive influences on the composite index also included a boost in the manufacturing sector as new orders climbed (+1.0%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Originally published in *Population Highlights*, 4th Quarter 2010

Population Highlights – Fourth Quarter 2010

The population in British Columbia reached 4,554,085 as of January 1st, 2011. Quarterly population growth is at its lowest since 2006, reaching only 1.2% compared to the same quarter of 2009. Saskatchewan continued to lead growth (+1.5%), leaving BC in shared fifth place with Ontario and just above the average growth across Canada (+1.1%).

Annual growth: 2009 to 2010

The population in BC experienced an increase of 55,295 persons during the 2010 calendar year. Most of this growth is attributable to international migration (38,155 persons), followed by steady natural increase (12,502 persons) and interprovincial migration (4,638).

Table 1: Population change, 2009-2010

Population January 1, 2010		**4,498,790**
Interprovincial migration		+ 4,638
plus Interprovincial arrivals	+58,851	
minus Interprovincial departure	−54,213	
International migration		+ 38,155
plus Immigrants	+44,179	
minus Total net emigrants	− 7,136	
plus Non-permanent residents	+ 1,112	
Natural increase		+ 12,502
plus Births	+43,606	
minus Deaths	−31,104	
Population January 1, 2011		**4,554,085**

Data Source: Statistics Canada

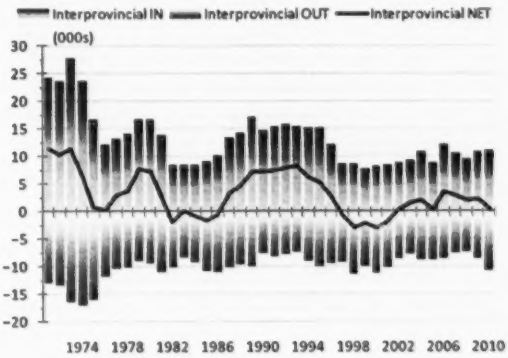
Interprovincial migration to BC took a significant hit in 2010 as a net of 4,638 persons settled in BC, dropping 55.2% compared to 10,351 in 2009. The largest influx of interprovincial migration was in Alberta, with 6,797 persons, while Ontario suffered another year of net losses (−4,543).

BC hosted a fair share (15.7%) of the 280,671 immigrants that landed in Canada in 2010. However, the majority of immigrants continued to settle in Ontario (42.1%) and Québec (19.2%). The number of non-permanent residents (NPRs) in BC also inched ahead (+0.8%) in 2010, easing since a boom of double-digit growth in 2008 and 2009. It is estimated that BC is home to almost a quarter (22.7%) of the Canadian NPR stock (596,271). Most NPRs reside in Ontario (40.2%).

Fourth quarter, 2010

Net interprovincial migration totalled 442 persons to BC in the fourth quarter of 2010, with the province gaining 11,086 migrants, but losing 10,644. BC received migrants from all provinces and territories during the fourth quarter, except Nunavut. Most in-migrants came from Alberta (+4,996) and Ontario (+3,228). Alberta saw the biggest interprovincial influx (+2,510), while Ontario lost the most interprovincial migrants (−1,811).

Figure 1: Interprovincial migration, fourth quarter



Data Source: Statistics Canada

BC's natural increase of 2,517 came from the difference between 10,593 births and 8,076 deaths.

Migration from outside of Canada's borders typically contributes more to the provincial population than movement within Canada itself. However, the fourth quarter of 2010 completely bucked this trend, with a net loss in international migration (−727).

Historically, fourth-quarter net migration has usually been lower than the first three quarters, but never to this extent. The main cause of this decline stems from a loss in net NPRs to BC (−7,353) in the fourth quarter. The primary reason for NPRs to come to Canada is to study and work. However, recent policy changes[1] in terms of study and/or work permit renewals—effective during the last quarter of 2010—may be the reason for this unprecedented drop on NPRs. Additionally, historical trends (a decline starting around 2008) and typical seasonal variation may also be an underlying factor in the drop.

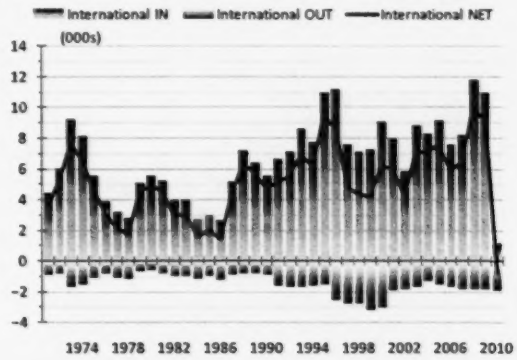
Table 2: Population change, 2010 Q4

Population October 1, 2010			**4,551,853**
Interprovincial migration		+	442
plus Interprovincial arrivals	+11,086		
minus Interprovincial departure	+10,644		
International migration		−	727
plus Immigrants	+ 8,499		
minus Total net emigrants	− 1,873		
plus Non-permanent residents	− 7,353		
Natural increase		+	2,517
plus Births	+10,593		
minus Deaths	− 8,076		
Population January 1, 2011			**4,554,085**

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Immigrants from other countries added 8,499 persons, as well as 649 persons who previously emigrated, but have returned to Canada. A total of 2,522 people left BC for other countries abroad.

Figure 2: BC international migration, fourth quarter

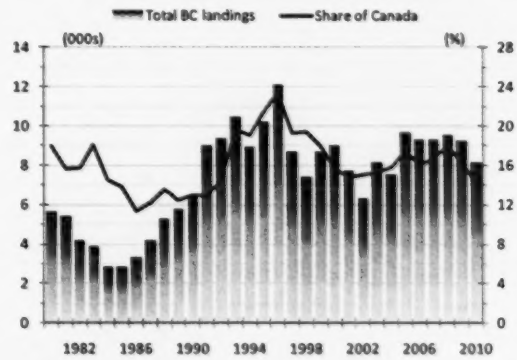


Data Source: Statistics Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada recorded a total of 57,507 new landed immigrants (or permanent residents) in the fourth quarter of 2010—an increase of 2.1% compared to 2009 Q4. Of these landed immigrants, 8,148 (14%) chose BC as their immigrant destination—third only to Ontario (41%) and Québec (22%).

BC's fourth quarter share of new landings in Canada has declined over the last two years—down from 18% in 2008 to 14% in 2010. It is possible that this decline may be a result of the rise in landings to Alberta (from 10% in 2008 to 12% in 2010).

Figure 3: BC immigration and share of Canadian total, fourth quarter



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

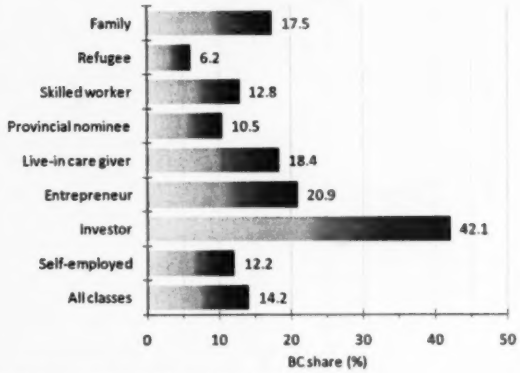
China is still the main contributor of immigrants to BC, accounting for 19% of total landings in BC.

[1] Operational Bulletin 242 – October 21, 2010
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/bulletins/2010/ob242.asp

New permanent residents from the Philippines made up 17%, while 14% came from India.

Immigrants categorized under the Skilled Worker class made up the largest share (35%) of landings in BC during the fourth quarter of 2010, followed by the Family class (31%). While the share of Family class immigrants have remained in the low to mid 30s, Skilled Worker class immigrants have been on the decline over the last decade—a drop of almost 20% since 2000 Q4. However, the fourth quarter share of 2010 Skilled Worker immigrants bounced back, making up 35% of the total.

Figure 4: BC share of immigrants to Canada by class, 2010 Q4



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,554.1	1.2
Canada	34,278.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan 2011	3,157	3.2
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2011	2,676	1.2
Retail Sales - Jan 2011	4,776	-0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Feb 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.8	1.6
Vancouver	1.8	1.9
Victoria	1.6	1.2
Canada	2.2	1.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb 2011	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	8.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,478.2	1.1
Employed - BC	2,260.5	0.4
Unemployed - BC	217.6	8.6
		Jan 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.8	8.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.8	7.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Mar 23/2011	Mar 24/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.60
- 5 year	5.34	5.25
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Mar 23/2011	Mar 24/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9821	1.0267
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0197	0.9753
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb 2011	one year ago
BC	828.91	2.0
Canada	832.58	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Post-Secondary Student Outcomes - Trends in Employment

Every year, respondents to the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey are asked a series of questions about their current employment. This paper looks at trends in employment characteristics between 1999 and 2009. The analysis uses data from approximately 6,100 to 8,200 employed former students from Applied programs per year and 750 to 1,600 employed former Arts and Sciences students per year. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/DACSO_Papers/Trends_in_Employment_pdf.pdf

BC Post-Secondary Student Outcomes – Without a Trace

The report, Without a Trace - An Examination of Former Post-Secondary Students Who Left the System Without a Credential and Did Not Return, is based on 5,036 completions of the Short Stay Early Leaver Student Outcomes Survey, conducted over the summer of 2009. Respondents from 24 B.C. public post-secondary institutions - research universities, teaching universities, colleges, and institutes - participated in the project. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/SSELSO/SSEL_report_Final_pdf.pdf

Sub-Provincial Population Estimates

2010 estimates of population for municipalities, regional districts and development regions are now available. Estimates for 2006 to 2009 have also been revised.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/mun/CurrentPopulationEstimates.pdf

Released this week by BC Stats

- Population Highlights, 4th Quarter 2010

Next week

- Business Indicators, March 2011
- Tourism Sector Monitor, March 2011
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 4th Quarter 2010

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